

Amelia Boynton Robinson and our fellow Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who were both bludgeoned for marching for their right to vote. Their sacrifices and courage paved the path for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with overwhelming bipartisan support.

As we reach the fourth anniversary of *Shelby v. Holder*, the landmark case that overturned and gutted a vital part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it is clear that Americans' right to vote is under attack now more than ever. While people of color are no longer subject to irrational literacy tests, arbitrary grandfather clauses, or high poll taxes, the reversal of Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act once again subjugates minorities to voter discrimination tactics. This section provided preclearance measures for states where voter discrimination has occurred. Section 4(b) required any changes of voting laws to first be cleared by the court in the determined states. Since *Shelby v. Holder* nullified this crucial part of the Voting Rights Act, 10 states have passed laws requiring photo identification to vote, and several more states now require government issued identification in order to cast a ballot. These identification laws have been proven to negatively affect minority and low-income voters disproportionately time and time again.

Moreover, instead of working to enhance the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and working to protect the voting rights of all Americans, the Trump Administration is wasting valuable time and resources creating a commission to investigate the groundless claim that millions of people voted illegally in the last election. The creation of this commission demonstrates a clear disregard for the millions of disenfranchised minorities across America.

My legislation, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, will effectively create a new coverage formula and provide updated preclearance procedures for states that have had 15 or more voting violations within the past 25 years. With the addition of this new formula, 13 states including Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, 9 of which have already passed discriminatory voter identification laws, would be subject to federal oversight. The Voting Rights Advancement Act presents a clear solution to the problem of voter discrimination and helps ensure Americans of all races and socioeconomic statuses are able to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote.

Just as in 1965, we remain at a pivotal crossroads—the choice to give every American equal access to the ballot or to continue marginalizing and disenfranchising minorities and low-income communities. I urge my colleagues to take action and support the Voting Rights Advancement Act and not to let the bipartisan effort of previous Congresses be in vain. Congress must pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act and restore the right to vote to every American citizen.

IN HONOR OF SPECIAL AGENTS
CRYSTAL GRINER AND DAVID
BAILEY AND THEIR COURAGEOUS
ACTS OF VALOR IN SAVING
LIVES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the selfless acts of courage displayed by Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey of The United States Capitol Police saving the lives of numerous members of Congress and their staffs. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the wounded and Congressman Steve Scalise and Matt Mika and their families who are fighting for their lives. I include in the RECORD this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

NOT ON MY WATCH

They awake on each new day
With a hug and kiss
saying goodbye to their loved ones out on
their way
As to themselves "Not on My Watch" they
say
No one is going to hurt you this day
Putting on a bullet proof vest
while strapping a holster and gun to their
chest

To watch over all of us to bless
moving out to serve and protect
Not knowing what evil to expect
Or if this will be their last day, yet
Who while all in the midst of hell
must find the strength to make their souls
swell

Living by a noble code and creed
to watch over us . . . you and me
It's all in a Police Officer's day
Saying, "Not on My Watch" all at speed
To vanquish evil's darkest of all needs
Ready to lay down their own lives if need be
Standing on that thin blue line
where death lies so close all the time
When, who lives and dies
And see's another sunrise
So all depends on you
relies

And on that fateful morning in June
When two Capitol Police Officers went deep
stood true
Who against all odds
just like Gods kept their oath through and
through

Out gunned
who from the face of death would not run
All in their stride stood tall in the morning
sun

Until, they vanquished what this dark evil
had begun

Thank you
Officers Griner and Bailey as you have
blessed each and everyone
But, "hate is hard . . . and it makes me
cry"

When, I see those tears in those wounded
loved ones eyes

But remember
the darkness is no match for the light
The kind that which on this day
burned in Griner's and Bailey's hearts so
bright

Goodness
Evil
Darkness
Light
Those Brave Hearts Who Evil Must Fight
Who Bring The Light
Together Enjoined
As We Battle On

Into The Darkest of Nights
"Not On My Watch"
Those Brave Hearts Who Evil Must Fight
You Bring The Light

IN HONOR OF JOE ELLIS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Ellis for winning the high jump event in the Ohio High School Division I State Track and Field Tournament.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSA state level competitions have represented the highest achieving and most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the long ranks of those who embody Ohio's proud history of athletic success.

Joe Ellis' victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. You have set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Mansfield Senior High School can be extremely proud of your performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Joe Ellis on his state championship. I wish him continued success in both his athletic and academic endeavors.

TRUMPCARE WILL ABANDON
AMERICANS SUFFERING FROM
ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, our country is in the midst of a drug overdose epidemic that's devastating families and communities nationwide. Each day, 144 people die from drug overdose. Opioids kill more people than car accidents, and heroin kills more than all gun-related homicides.

Recently, President Trump stated the opioid crisis "is a crippling problem throughout the United States" and vowed to "expand treatment for those who have become so badly addicted." After promising the American people that he would take action to alleviate this suffering, he endorsed a GOP health reform bill that would decimate mental health and substance abuse treatment for those most in need.

Now, we all know about TrumpCare. We know the House version of the bill would cut more than \$800 billion to Medicaid, cause 23 million Americans to lose their health insurance, and disproportionately hurt the same low- and middle-class voters in rural areas who helped elect him in order to give a massive tax cut to the wealthiest Americans. And the Senate version, released today, is expected to have largely similar effects.